Krsna Hiding from the Gopis

From the Krsna Book Chapters 22 to 30

1st Gopi: Some of you were not present at the river on the day that Krsna stole our clothing!

3rd Gopi: Oh, but we love to hear that story. Please tell it again!

4th Gopi: Yes, please!

1st Gopi: It was so embarrassing! Only Krsna could get away with a stunt like that!

2nd Gopi: Everyone loves Krsna so!

1st Gopi: It was during the first month of the winter season. The young, unmarried girls of Gokula observed the vow of worshiping goddess Katyavani. For the entire month, they ate only unspiced kicheri. Each day after bathing in the Yamuna just after as the sun was rising they worshipped an earthen deity of goddess Durga on the bank. The unmarried girls chanted:

4th Gopi: O Goddess Durga, please give us Krsna, the son of Nanda as our husband.

(Sound effects of girls splashing and laughing loudly, forest sounds. Then a flute is played and the sounds stop.)

1st Gopi: Krsna was sitting right there on a big tree branch and He had all of our clothes bundled up before Him.

2nd Gopi: He said, " My dear girls, please come here one after another and pray for your garments and then take them away. Please do not come all at once. Come alone; I want to see each of you in your complete beauty, for all have you have very thin waists."

3rd Gopi: (gasp) I can't imagine! What did you do!??

1st Gopi: We thought at first that Krsna was joking with us but we were cold and shivering from standing in the water up to our necks for so long. We begged, "You are a very respectable boy because You are the son of Nanda Maharaj, and You are very dear to us but You should not play this joke on us because now we are shivering due to the cold water. Kindly give back our garments immediately, otherwise we will suffer!"

2nd Gopi: Krsna said, "I am tired now, since I have spent the entire night awake. If you do not come for your garments, I will use them to make a hammock!"

1st Gopi: Then we said, “We will go to Nanda Maharaj and lodge a complaint about You. If he does not take action, we shall tell King Kamsa about Your misbehavior!”

2nd Gopi: Krsna replied, “ My father is old and cannot take any action against Me!”

1st Gopi: Seeing that Krsna was serious, we finally had to do it. **(other gopis gasp)**!

2nd Gopi: Krsna said, “You prayed to the goddess Katayani to have Me as your husband and now, being pleased with you, I have fulfilled your desire. I promise you that during the next autumn season you shall be able to meet with Me and you shall enjoy Me as your husband. However, you have offended the demigod of the water, Varuna and to mitigate this offense, just touch your foreheads with folded palms and bow down before Varuna.”

1st Gopi: And Krsna did fulfil His promise - it was in the sarat season, when the full moon rose in the east, it tinged everything with a reddish color. With the rising of the moon, the whole sky appeared smeared by red kunkum. The appearance of the moon increased Krsna’s desires to dance with the gopis. The forests were full of fragrant flowers; the atmosphere was cool and festive.

When Krsna saw the full moon night of the Sarat season, He decorated Himself with various seasonal flowers, which are very fragrant. He remembered the gopi's prayers to the goddess Katyayani, wherein they prayed for Krsna to be their husband. He thought the full-moon night of the sarat season was just suitable for a nice dance and that the gopis desire to have Krsna as their husband would then be fulfilled.

[Krsna enters and plays His flute]

When Krsna played upon his flute the gopis all over Vrindavan became enchanted. Immediately upon hearing the vibration of his flute, they all left their respective engagements and proceeded to the spot where Krsna was standing. Some of them were engaged in milking the cows **[moo offstage]** but they left immediately and went to Krsna. Some

were breast-feeding their small babies **(gopi holds doll)** and some were engaged in serving food to their family members **(gopi holds pot in hands)** Some even put the lower part of their dresses on the upper part and upper part on the lower part. Some of the gopis who were unable to go thought of Krsna within their minds.

(All gopis come before Krsna)

When all the gopis assembled before Krsna, He began to speak to them:

Krsna: O ladies of Vrindavan, I am very pleased that you have come. You are very fortunate and dear to Me. Now please order me. What can I do for you? What is the purpose of your coming here in the dead of night?

1st Gopi: Of course Krsna knew that the gopis had come to enjoy His company and to dance with Him. He continued to smile as he spoke.

Krsna: My dear friends, you must know that the forest is very dangerous at night. Tigers, bears, wolves and jackals are prowling. It is very dangerous for you. Please turn back without delay. **(pause)** I can understand that you have left your homes without permission and your family members must be very anxious. As chaste women, you must return to your homes and take care of your young children. Please, go back home.

1st Gopi: When Krsna spoke in this way we gopis became very sad. We began to breathe heavily and draw various curved lines on the ground with our toes. We were unable to speak and simply stood there silently. **(pause)** Finally a gopi managed to say:

7th Gopi: Krsna you are very cruel. You should not talk this way. We are your devotees.

5th Gopi: You are the Supersoul of all living creatures. Without Your presence our life is worthless!

6th Gopi: Dear Lord, our hearts have already been stolen by You. We can not return home and engage in family affairs.

7th Gopi: We do not ask You to accept us as Your wives. Simply accept us as Your maidservants.

5th Gopi: O dear friend, where is that women within the three worlds who is not captivated by the sound of Your transcendental flute?

1st Gopi: Upon hearing the anxious plea of the gopis, the Supreme Personality of Godhead began to smile and enjoy our company.
(they begin to walk with Him, doing various things like offering him a garland, holding His hand, etc.)

Krsna: I very much appreciate your bodily features. All of you have nice, very thin waists.

1st Gopi: Soon, however, the gopis began to feel proud, thinking ourselves to be the most fortunate women in the universe. Krsna, who is known as Kesava, could understand our pride and in order to show us His causeless mercy - He disappeared from the scene!!! **(Krsna exits)** When this happened, we began to search for Him everywhere! We began to question the trees and plants in the forest.

5th Gopi: Dear banyan tree, have you seen the son of Nanda Maharaja passing this way, playing on his flute?

6th Gopi: Dear Tulasi, your leaves are always at His lotus feet. Will you kindly tell us where He has gone?

7th Gopi: Dear Kadamba flower, dear Malati flower, you are all very pious to be living on the bank of the Yamuna. Please tell us where He is!

1st Gopi: After searching here and there, the gopis began to talk like madwomen. We could only satisfy ourselves by imitating the pastimes of Krsna. One gopi imitated child Krsna and one became Trnavarta carrying the small child into the sky.
(They act out the song)

Trnavarta came from Kamsa shaped like a whirlwind
Putting Krsna on his shoulder, darkening Vrndavana
Dust storm all around, baby Krsna can't be found
Yasoda is crying upon the ground.

So, baby Krsna made Himself as heavy as a mountain
He caught Trnavarta's neck and made him fall down
Down, down, to the ground, sinful Trnavarta
Demons have to die, but Krsna is alive.
Down, down to the ground, sinful Trnavarta
Demons die away, but Krsna is safe.

Two gopis imitated Krsna and Balarama and many others imitated their cowherd boyfriends.
(They act out the song)

My dear Sir, have you heard?
Nanda's boys have returned.
They've been today in the woods,
Doing what no others could.
A demon named Pralambha came
And tried to join into their game;
But Balarama with just His hand
Smashed him down onto the land.

But that's not all we have to say.
While this happened the cows did stray.
Looking for fresh grass to eat,
They came upon a scorching heat.
The cows and boys were struck with fear.
They saw huge flames were coming near.
Quickly so they did not expire,
Krsna swallowed the forest fire!

Hare Krsna Hare Krsna,Krsna Krsna,Hare Hare
Hare Rama Hare Rama,Rama Rama,Hare Hare.

One gopi imitated Bakasura and another forced her to fall down as the demon did when he was killed. **(action)** One gopi chastised Kaliya by saying:

7th Gopi: "You rascal Kaliya! I shall punish you severely! I have descended upon this earth to punish all kinds of miscreants!"

(All gopis sing "Where is Krsna?" song by Yamini dasi)

Dear Tulasi, where is Krsna?
Dear blackberry, where is Krsna?
Dear kadamba flower, where is Krsna? Where is Krsna now?
"Don't be afraid of torrents of rain and severe hurricanes,
I'll save you."
"Don't be afraid of torrents of rain and severe hurricanes,
I'll save you."
Where is Krsna, where is Krsna now?

"Rascal Kaliya, leave this place; rascal Kaliya, leave this place
I have descended upon the earth to punish all kinds of miscreants."
Where is Krsna, where is Krsna now?
"See the flames of the fire are coming, close your eyes, I'll save you."
Dear Tulasi, where is Krsna?
Dear blackberries, where is Krsna?
Dear kadamba flower, where is Krsna?
O pear trees, O asoka trees, where is Krsna now?

1st Gopi: In this way, all the gopis were madly feeling the absence of Krsna. Not seeing Radharani however, they began to assume that Krsna had taken her away to a solitary place to enjoy her company.

7th Gopi: How could Krsna take her away, leaving all of us aside?

All gopis together: Because she is qualified and beautiful!

5th Gopi: Wait! Look over there! It's Radha and she is alone! **(gopis surround Radha)**

Radha: My dear friends, yes - I was alone with Krsna. But I became proud of my position and now He has left me!

1st Gopi: We became very sorry to hear that Radha was actually left alone by Krsna. Together, we began to proceed deeper into the forest.
(gopis begin to softly chant Hare Krsna)
Suddenly ... Krsna reappeared!!! **(Krsna enters)** Looking extraordinarily beautiful, Krsna took us hand in hand to the bank of the Yamuna River.
(They walk together, then stop.)

Krsna: My dear friends, you might be aggrieved by My words and acts. But you must know that I do this in order to increase your love for me. If I am very easily approached, one may think "Krsna is so easily attainable." But my dear friends, I am so much obliged to you that I can not treat you like ordinary devotees. Do not think I was away from you. I was simply testing you. Kindly excuse Me and know that it is not possible for Me to repay your love for Me.

1st Gopi: Thus, hearing the words of the Supreme Personality of Godhead, the gopis became very much pleased. So began the Rasa dance of Krsna and the gopis, the most beautiful and fortunate girls within the three worlds.
(Rasa dance begins).....